

Investment in High-Quality Pre-K Lays the Foundation for a More Successful PA

Pre-k is an Investment in our Economy.

The short- and long-term economic benefits of high-quality pre-k are clear:

- For every dollar Pennsylvania invests in early childhood programs, more than \$2 is circulated throughout local economies through employment and purchasing of goods and services.
- For every 10 jobs created in the Pennsylvania early care and education sector, 3 jobs are created outside that sector.¹

Pre-k is an Investment in our Future.

High-quality early learning programs help Pennsylvania's children build intellectual infrastructure for the future and yield positive results in school and in life.²



Invest Now, Save Later. Investment in high-quality early learning programs:

- Returns as much as \$17 in savings for every \$1 invested over the long term.³
- Preserves taxpayer dollars by decreasing dropout rates that can increase the likelihood for crime and incarceration during teenage years.⁴
- Boosts the economy through increased lifetime earnings and a reduced reliance on social services.⁵ (*The estimated additional lifetime income if Pennsylvania's dropouts had graduated with their class in 2011 is more than \$4 billion.*⁶)
- Saves taxpayers' money over time by reducing the need for special education and remedial instruction, and increasing the rates of graduation and college enrollment.⁷

We Can't Let PA Fall Behind. It's time for Pennsylvania to join states across the country – including Georgia, New York, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, West Virginia and the District of Columbia – that are providing, or are on the pathway to providing, high-quality pre-k for all 3- and 4-year-olds.⁸

¹ Public Citizens for Children and Youth (PCCY), *The Bottom Line Is Children, Early Care and Education In Montgomery County*, February 2014.

² Bartik, Timothy J., *Investing in Kids: Early Childhood Programs and Local Economic Development*. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, 2011.

³ Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children (PPC), *A Smart Choice for a Solid Start: The Case for Pre-k in PA*, February 2014.

⁴ Wat, Albert., *Dollars and Sense: A Review of Economic Analyses of Pre-K*. Pre-K Now, May 2007.

⁵ Hanushek, Eric A., *The Economic Relevance of Early Childhood Development*. Prepare for Life! Raising Awareness for Early Literacy Education, 2013.

⁶ The median income for a Pennsylvania high school dropout is \$20,547, compared to \$28,245 for a high school graduate, \$33,989 for an Associate's degree and \$48,667 for a Bachelor's degree.

⁷ Harvey, James. *Invest Now or Pay More Later: Early Childhood Education Promises Savings to Pennsylvania School Districts*, 2006.

⁸ The National Institute for Early Education Research, *The State of Preschool 2012*, Rutgers Graduate School of Education, 2012.